

Keeping in Touch, August 10th 2020

Hello everyone,

I'm sure like me you must be enjoying the colour in your garden and with the help of this week's KIT, the colour in some of our members gardens too.

KITBITS

Garden Recommendation – Linda Headford has been a volunteer at Renishaw for some time now. She says that its pretty quiet at the moment, so social distancing isn't a problem. They have some lovely borders which many of our members saw the year before last when we paid a visit in September. Here's a taste of the White Garden, well worth a visit don't you think?



PHLOX

Barbara Dygnas sent in a phlox she wanted identified a couple of editions ago. Decie Needham reckons it is *Phlox paniculata* 'Mother of Pearl', AGM, bred by Alan Bloom (1954). The pips are pink and height is about 3-ft at maturity, though Decie has one at about 4-ft., but it has been in a good while.

Decie sent in two more phlox pictured below, both unnamed. The first came from Wollaton Hall and is a staple in their border. It is a luminous bluey pink and very vigorous. The second had also been in an NGS garden in Gloucester for many years, very cottage garden. Decie thinks they both might be *arendsii* hybrids.



Don Witton has a Phlox paniculata 'Becky Towe' on his allotment garden. He says on impulse he bought it in springtime a few years back because it had 'gorgeous variegated foliage'. Don says that unfortunate in the summer it had the temerity to flower. He likes the foliage, likes the flowers but not necessarily on the same plant as he isn't sure the floral colour goes with the foliage. Well I saw this in the flesh on Friday as I took Don and Dot up on their kind offer to pay them a visit, and it doesn't look quite right to me. But I'm not a great fan of variegated foliage. What do you think?



Seriously though, go and pay them a visit, the invitation is open to all members, just contact dorothywitton@outlook.com or donshardyeuphorbias@btopenworld.com). I would heartily recommend it, you'll come away with ideas, inspiration and probably a couple of courgettes!

HEMEROCALLIS

A few years ago Linda Headford bought some Hemerocallis online. After she received her order, she received a second batch. The supplier was shutting down and he was sending his remaining stock free of charge to recent customers – what a lovely surprise to get. The only draw back was that the freebies were unnamed. Here they are, I'll name them H1, H2, H3, H4 in the order in which they appear. If you've got any ideas, let me know tonifascina@outlook.com. I think H4 is H. 'Georgette Beldon' because I recently bought one from Don!





Other lovely plants from your garden

Another plant on Don's allotment is a ligularia. Don says 'Whether it's garden centres, plant fairs or in gardens you don't see many ligularias these days. They seemed more popular in the 80s and 90s which is when I bought *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona' which has vibrant orange flowers and big leaves which are red underneath. It survives rather than thrives on the allotment where the soil is well drained and dries out in the summer (moisture retentive soil is ideal). The good news is that after the dry spring there isn't a slug hole to be seen on the leaves.'

I once had this plant, dug it up after a few years because it is basically the slug version of crack cocaine!



Finally from Don, a 'white' hot poker, *Kniphofia* 'Toffee Nosed' has creamy white tubular flowers with the top flowers toffee coloured in bud fading to white as they open.



Next time, some lovely photos from Jean Marshall's nursery, *Codonopsis grey-wilsonii* from HPS seed (sent in by Barbara Dygnas) and anything else you send me tonifascina@outlook.com

Enjoy the rest of the week in the garden, thunder storms permitting!

Toni